

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03726 070954Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 FEA-01

/112 W

-----083930 071005Z /17

R 070830Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8429

INFO USINT BAGHDAD

AMCONSUL DHARHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3726

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: KUWAITI DRILLING NEAR IRAQI BORDER

REF: (A) KUWAIT 3053 (B) KUWAIT 2273 (C) KUWAIT 1923

1. OIL MINISTRY EXPATRIATE EMPLOYEE INVOLVED IN DRILLING PROGRAM
TOLD ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION CHIEF JULY 6 THAT RADQA
(FORMERLY CALLED JIRFAN II) WELL IS READY FOR TESTING.
ALL ACTIVITY IN PROGRAM IS BEING SPECIFICALLY ORDERED BY
THE PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE OF POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS.
WHILE OIL MINISTRY COULD SIMPLY HAVE TESTED WELL AND
LET ANY OIL DISCOVERED FLOW INTO A NEARBY BURN BASIS, SOURCE SAID
PRIME MINISTER HAS FORBIDDEN THIS BECAUSE BURNING OFF
OIL WOULD PROVOKE THE IRAQIS AND ALSO BECAUSE THERE
MIGHT BE A GOOD DEAL OF WASTE INVOLVED INCE MINISTRY
BELIEVES WELL LIKELY TO PRODUCE 3-5,000 BARRELS DAILY
AT MINIMUM. SOURCE SAID PRIME MINISTER HAD ORDERED THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03726 070954Z

7 INCH SURFACE PIPELINE BE CONSTRUCTED FROM WELL 37 KM
SOUTH TO LINK UP WITH EXISTING PIPELINE AT RAWDATAIN.
HOWEVER, MINISTRY CONVINCED HIM THIS WOULD BE UNNECESSARY
EXPENSE GIVEN THE UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ACTUAL OIL IN THE
AREA. THEY HAVE THEREFORE COMPROMISED BY AGREEING ON
CONSTRUCTION OF A 7 INCH PIPELINE EXTENDING 5 KM
SOUTH OF WELL/BORDER TO A BURN PIT. OIL

WOULD THEN BE TRUCKED TO EXISTING PIPELINE AND ANY ASSOCIATED GAS FLARED IN THE DAY TIME SO AS TO AVOID PROVOKING THE IRAQIS AND GIVING THEM ANY INDICATION AS TO THE AMOUNT OF OIL BEING PRODUCED. SOURCE SAID THAT ACTUAL TESTING OF WELL WOULD TAKE PLACE UPON COMPLETION OF PIPELINE ABOUT AUGUST 15.

2. SOURCE, PETROLEUM ENGINEER WITH 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE, 17 OF THEM IN KUWAIT, SAID THERE IS NO QUESTION IN HIS MIND BUT THAT KUWAITIS ARE SIMPLY DRILLING INTO SOUTHERN EXTENSION OF IRAQI RUMAILA FIELD.
MAESTRONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLORATORY DRILLING, OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUWAIT03726
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770241-0075
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770783/aaaacums.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2c66a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 KUWAIT 3053, 77 KUWAIT 2273, 77 KUWAIT 1923
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1940330
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAITI DRILLING NEAR IRAQI BORDER
TAGS: ENRG, IZ, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2c66a66f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009